

There are now said to be two laboratories, each apparently a Quonset hut of 40 × 100 ft. with a smaller upper floor. One is devoted to biological and the other to physical sciences. At least in part, heat is furnished by oil-burning space heaters and circulated by small fans. Propane gas is used for laboratory burners and there is a supply both of fresh and distilled water.

Local maintenance and supplies are provided by the Bureau of Yards and Docks through the Arctic Contractors who operate the base camp. This group of physiologists, the first wintering party at the new station, report that the help and facilities provided are excellent. Arrangements for work by visitors to the station are to be made through the Office of Naval Research. Laurence Irving ends his article by saying, "there may be a great literature based upon Soviet Arctic researches, but this we cannot know until all workers in Arctic research freely exchange views across the Arctic Ocean".

#### "ARCTIC DOG DISEASE" AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO RABIES

[Based on papers by P. J. G. Plummer in the *Canadian Journal of Comparative Medicine*, June 1947, pp. 154-60, and November 1947, pp. 330-34.]

About 1930 the Canadian Government began to receive reports about a condition occurring among sledge dogs and fur-bearing animals of the Northwest Territories. The Division of Animal Pathology of the Dominion Department of Agriculture made repeated attempts to obtain appropriate specimens, but the length of time that these specimens were in preservative precluded an efficient examination.

In 1947 the condition was reported at Baker Lake, which is situated approximately 400 miles north of Fort Churchill and can be reached by aeroplane. A scientist equipped with laboratory supplies visited this port, obtained pertinent information, held autopsies and returned with tissues for study.

An examination of these tissues by animal inoculation and other means indicated that the virus of rabies was present.

Since that date, specimens have been received from Aklavik and Frobisher Bay, and in each instance the presence of rabies virus has been found: the dog, fox and wolf have been incriminated. The finding of rabies in the three sections of Canada mentioned indicates that it is spread widely over the North-West Territories. It is not known yet whether this disease constitutes entirely the so-called "Arctic Dog Disease", but it certainly is a part of the problem. In the future the condition will be studied more thoroughly when material becomes available.

The settled portion of Canada has been, with few exceptions, free of rabies, and it came as a surprise that this disease should be discovered in wild animals of the Canadian Arctic. The disease must have been present for many years, and conceivably it may play an important part in the cyclical reduction of the wild animal population.